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See story on page 10

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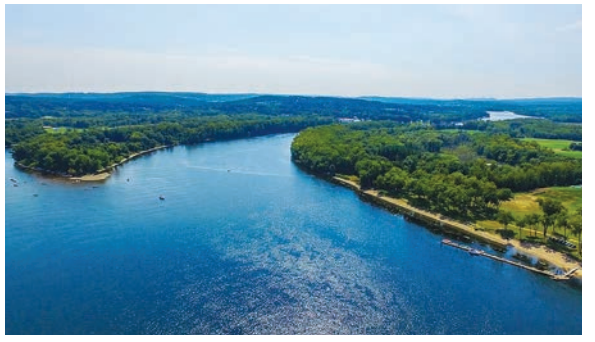

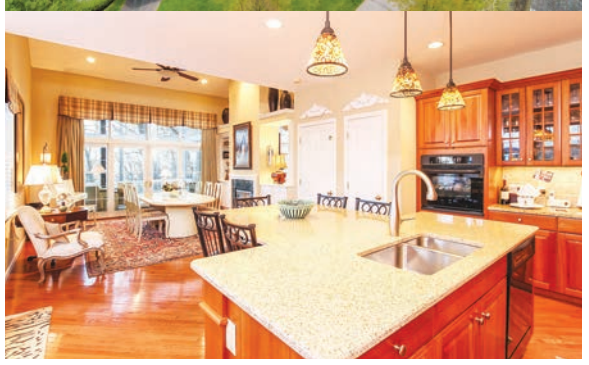

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QUOTE OF NOTE:

"I'm really grateful for my Jewish communities. Whether it's at camp or my friends in Israel, they have been really important to me." - *Julia Meadow*

See story page 9

ON THE COVER

Rosalia Pulino, ESOL coordinator for Cromwell public schools, helps Sophia Zera, whose family hails from Poland.

Photo by Lisa Brisson
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Officer Jason Tolton greetsDylan Gassner with an enthusiastic high-five.

"They are true partners in the schools. They are an invaluable part of our school community. We love them."

– Superintendent of Schools Paula Talty

Photos by Mark Jahne

Safety and more

School resource officers bond with students and staff

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Cromwell has for many years assigned members of its police force to serve in the public schools as resource officers. The program continues in large part because of its past success and the desire on behalf of both police leadership, the Board of Education and school administrators to bring its many benefits to students, parents, faculty and other staff.

The current school resource offices are Jason Tolton and Sarah Alicea. They work every day to teach children how to live a healthy life, make positive decisions, and avoid the dangers posed by tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs.

Their primary role in the schools is not to arrest anyone but they will respond to crimes if they occur and take whatever action is deemed appropriate.

SROs help school administrators deal with modern-day issues such as cyber bullying and other prohibited behaviors. The whole idea is to show students that cops are not mean people, but rather human beings who serve as community resources to keep everyone safe.

Both SROs were honored this past year with Civic Awards presented at the annual Mayor's Ball sponsored by the Cromwell Merchants Association.

Tolton is a California native and has been married for 12 years. He is the father of two children.

He's in his fourth year as an SRO and is assigned to Cromwell High School and Woodside Intermediate School. He teaches the fifth grade DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program and teaches the high school students about the various aspects of law enforcement.

These include motor vehicle laws, Fourth Amendment search and seizure, Fifth Amendment due process, and social media topics. He also discusses police/community relations and the violent incidents that occurred this past year in Dallas, Tex., where officers were shot at random and Ferguson, Mo., where racial tensions boiled over after a white officer shot a black teenager.

Alicea spends her days in Cromwell Middle School and Edna C. Stevens School. Her efforts range from helping kindergarten students on the playground swings to explaining search and seizure law to eighth-graders.

She is a field training officer and a member of the Midstate Accident Reconstruction Team consisting of specially trained officers from Cromwell, Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.

Alicea was a police officer in New London before coming to town. She has lived here her entire life and is a CHS graduate who went on to earn a bachelor's degree in criminology from Central Connecticut State University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Haven.

Tolton underwent a full week of SRO training in Canton, Mass., before taking on his post in the schools.

He also plans to attend an SRO convention in Washington,. D.C., this summer.

One recent Monday morning, Tolton was at the main entrance to Woodside Intermediate School with Assistant Principal Katie Guerrette. They were welcoming children to school as parents dropped them off.

The officer gave a high-five or fist bump to every child. Most of them actively sought him out; those who were to busy or otherwise preoccupied came over after hearing him call their name.

Jason Tolton and Sarah Alicea, the Cromwell Police Department's two school resource officers, were honored this past year at the annual Mayor's Ball. They received Civic Awards for their work with local youth.

"I like kids. They are our future," he said. "The kids love me and I love them. It's a great fit."

Alicea is currently out on medical leave so Tolton is covering all four schools for the remainder of this academic year. He spoke of the support he gets from faculty and other staff and how important it is that they assist in his work.

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"They help me out tremendously," he said.

Tolton had sponsored a DARE essay contest the previous week and one of the student winners was absent the day he honored the best essays. He made it a point to visit her classroom the next school day and present her with a medallion while her classmates looked on.

He praises in public and chastises in private. Discussions about inappropriate behavior are always conducted behind closed doors. Tolton has only made one school-based arrest since becoming an SRO and he made sure no one saw him taking the student out of the high school in handcuffs.

He recently had to counsel a middle school student about the dangers involved with "sexting." Tolton and Alicea are sometimes called upon to be part of the solution to student behavioral problems, often at the request of parents.

Students sometimes have issues at home and they act out at school. On this day, a boy wanted to run away from Edna C. Stevens because he was upset over a family matter. Tolton followed the child outside and patiently talked with him.

The officer has locked DARE suggestion boxes at his two assigned schools and students can fill out a simple form and tell him what is on their minds. They can remain anonymous if they so choose.

"I talk to the kids about police questions. A lot of the staff have questions," he said.

Each school has office space set aside for its SRO. At Woodside, it's a seat in the main office with a full view of the entrance and main hallway. The offices at the high school and middle school are in the media centers.

Tolton said he always tries to take a proactive and positive approach with students but he also reminds them that if they continue to misbehave, there are consequences, especially if that behavior violates the law.

"If you make me do my job, I will do my job," he said, and that includes placing someone under arrest. He has dealt with serious hazing and harassment issues.

"I try really hard to resolve conflict," he said.

Tolton maintains an open-door policy whenever he is in one of his offices. His CHS office includes a candy jar and students are invited to help themselves to the sweet treats.

An unspoken and sobering part of an SRO's job is that if an armed intruder somehow bypasses security and enters the school, it is his or her job to run directly toward that intruder and neutralize the threat.

Woodside Intermediate School student Ryan Burr gives Officer Tolton a high-five on his way into the building. Most other arriving students did the same.

"If stuff hits the fan, I'm going after the bad guy," he said. "If I need to lay down my life, I lay down my life. That's part of my job."

In the best-case scenario, his actions would buy precious time as additional officers race to the scene, most likely within a matter of a few minutes, and no one would get hurt. In the worst case, it would mean sacrificing his life with the hope that the other officers arrive in time to save the students, faculty and other staff from harm.

Tolton has a third-degree brown

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belt in Shaolin Kempo karate and that skill could come in handy in such a situation. Lock-down drills are a regular part of every school's activities. He works with staff to make sure they run smoothly.

The officer regularly checks external security and walks the grounds, performing a risk assessment at the same time. A walk at the high school led to the discovery of too many dog owners who do not clean up after their pets, so he took action to have multiple poop disposal stations installed on the grounds.

He encourages students to take pride in, and responsibility for, their school and themselves. Tolton hopes to introduce an age-appropriate DARE program to the second grade next academic year.

He suited up and played with a team of teachers and other staff in a basketball game against the Harlem Wizards that raised money for the middle school PTO.

The SRO attends sporting events, concerts, plays and other school activities when possible. Tolton joined the police department nine years ago and remains convinced that he made the right career choice.

"I love it. It's a dream job," he said.

He and Alicea often compare notes. They also share information about the students with other members of the police department and that can help ease the situation if, for example, a high school student with a driver's license is stopped for a moving violation or involved in a crash.

"It's a wonderful relationship for all of us to have," Cromwell Middle School Principal Ann Cocchiola said. She added that the parents are quite comfortable with having Tolton in the school interacting with their children.

The program is not new; Police Chief Denise Lamontagne said it dates from 2001. It remains in place because of the benefits it provides to the school district, the town and the police department.

"We had a federal grant to add a school resource officer. In 2014 we added a second officer," Lamontagne said.

Tolton sponsored a DARE essay contest but Bayleigh Tackett was absent the day he passed out awards to the winners. So he stopped in her classroom first thing the next school day to present her with a medallion for her efforts.

She is proud that Cromwell was one of the first towns in Connecticut to take this proactive approach to policing.

"When I started, we had a youth officer program. He would go into the schools and teach DARE," she said.

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Education) is a long-running educational program taught in schools by police officers all over the country. It emphasizes healthy choices and making positive decisions.

School resource officers today do that, plus much more.

They work to keep students and staff safe, keep drugs and other dangerous items out of the schools, and deal with bullying and the growing problem of cyber bullying and other Internet-based issues.

"It really is amazing for the schoolchildren and the officers," Lamontagne said of the SRO program. "They see the officer and they're not afraid to approach. Then kids get to see that they're human. It just benefits everybody."

He or she becomes a trusted adult and someone a troubled child can talk with in difficult times.

The chief said the children in town respect Tolton and Alicea because they know these cops care about them.

"They have daily conversations with the students. We have the right people [in these positions]. Officer Tolton has a fabulous relationship with the high school students," she added.

Their primary goal each day is to help young people learn how to make safe and responsible decisions.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paula Talty fully supports the program and sees many benefits in it. Several other officers served in the position prior to Alicea and Tolton.

"The program has been in existence for a long time, at least 16 years," she said. "They are true partners in the schools. They are an invaluable part of our school community. We love them."

She added that Tolton and Alicea are proactive and form great relationships with students, parents and staff.

"They serve as mentors. The kids love them," Talty added.

The SROs serve as additional significant adults in the lives of local schoolchildren, she said. As they develop relationships, students share information with them that can help to prevent problems or nip them in the bud before they become major issues. **CL**

School Resource Officer Jason Tolton joins Assistant Principal Katie Guerrette outside Woodside Intermediate School to welcome students as parents dropped them off one recent Monday morning.

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Student of the month

Seeing the world at the age of 17

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

By their junior year, many high school pupils are starting to think about living away from home after graduation. For 17-year-old Julia Meadow, that idea is nothing new. She studied abroad in Israel for four months this past year.

The Cromwell High School junior has always been active in her Jewish faith, attending Jewish schools through the eighth grade and being part of a Jewish day camp every summer.

"That's how I heard about the program," she said. "I go to a Jewish day camp and they came and told us about it."

Prior to this experience, she had traveled to Israel three other times, but each of those visits lasted less than two weeks. This would provide her an opportunity to live there for four months.

The program was run through an organization called Ramah Israel, an educational institution in Jerusalem that provides opportunities for families, synagogues or individual students.

"There was a whole campus for other trips happening," Julia said. "There was a building with Russian students, a French building, and we had our own building. It had classes in the lower level, then where we lived, then offices on the floor above that."

Her cohort had 34 students from across the United States and Canada living together. Julia was assigned two roommates, one from Colorado and the other from Canada.

"We did four months in Israel and one week in Poland," she said of the program. "We would go on trips two days a week around Israel."

While on campus, students continued their studies from their schools back home.

"I was able to get syllabuses from all my teachers before I left," she said. "They all thought it was really cool and wanted to do what they could to help me."

The teachers in Israel worked to merge the syllabuses of all those students into a comprehensive curriculum.

"We tried to make sure everyone stayed where they needed to for the year," Julia said. "A lot of people had overlap, but for my history class I was the only one taking it."

In addition to their regular classes, students were also enrolled in Hebrew language courses as well as an Israel Core Course. The biggest change for Julia was adapting to life in a foreign country. School is held Sunday through Friday and there is a seven-hour time difference from Cromwell.

"It was weird to go to school on Sundays," she said. "That was a weird adjustment."

She gained a new perspective on the world that she would not have been able to get from a textbook.

"It was good to experience a different culture early on and to experience other places," she said. "With those opportunities, you get the chance to expand your horizons."

Returning to Cromwell High School for her junior year, she was able to quickly readjust to life in Connecticut. School is an important part of her life and this year she is taking Advanced Placement courses in art, history, English and calculus.

"I'm really grateful for my Jewish communities. Whether it's at camp or my friends in Israel, they have been really important to me."
– Julia Meadow

As a sophomore she took an AP biology class and she plans to take three more AP courses as a senior in government, statistics and English.

"My favorite has been history," she said of this year's class focusing on U.S. history. "I'm more of a world history person, so I didn't know much about America's part in other parts of the world."

Julia was inducted this year into the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society. In addition to her academic pursuits, she plays for the school's volleyball and softball teams.

She took up volleyball her freshman year as a way to both stay active and to meet people at her new school and quickly came to enjoy it.

"I like the sport itself and I like the friends that I made doing it," she said.

Julia began playing softball some eight years ago and joined the CHS team as a freshman, playing second base. She was away in Israel for the season during her sophomore year, but as a junior she is back on the field.

Her biggest passion is in the kitchen. This teenager loves cooking and baking and recently took steps to make it her profession.

Julia Meadow, a junior at Cromwell High School, is an accomplished scholar, athlete, baker and now world traveler. She spent four months studying abroad in Israel during her sophomore year.

"I kind of run my own business right now out of my house," she said. "I sell cupcakes and macaroons."

Opening her own baking business has always been a dream. She hopes to study business management in college so that she can some day own a bakery.

"I started it earlier this year, but it was something I've been thinking about doing," she said. "I started posting about it on Facebook and then my brother helped me create a website."

Julia's Cupcake Corner was a way for her to see if this was truly a career she may one day pursue. She will have a greater chance to determine that this summer when she begins her new job at the Jewish day camp in Palmer, Mass., that she has attended for several years.

"Last summer was my last year as a camper, but I wanted to do something that will help me," she said. "I will be working in the kitchen at my camp with a master pastry chef."

During her free time she enjoys reading and spending time with her older brother Eric, 22, and rescue dog Abby. Through all of her experiences, both locally and abroad, Julia said it was the people around her who made it all worthwhile and her faith that gave it purpose.

"I'm really grateful for my Jewish communities," she said.

"Whether it's at camp or my friends in Israel, they have been really important to me." **CL**

All grade levels

School program supports students who are English language learners

by Mara Dresner
Staff Writer

Rosalia Pulino knows what it's like to experience a language barrier. Although she was born in the United States, her family is from Italy.

After her birth they moved back to their native country where they lived until she was 8 years old. When they returned to the United States, they settled in Middletown.

"I didn't speak a word of English anymore. I had an ESOL teacher who spoke Italian in Middletown. She was everything to me. She could speak to my parents. Without her, I would have been lost," Pulino said.

She brings that special sensitivity to her role as ELL coordinator for the Cromwell Public Schools.

"When I meet families, when I meet students, I have a sense of empathy, I have a sense of I know what you're going through. That's a huge part of why this is so important to me," Pulino, who has been with the school system for 15 years, said.

She was previously a Spanish teacher and joined the ELL department two years ago.

"The most modern and most accepted [term] for this population is English language learners," she said. "When students started being identified, the first term was English Speakers of Other Languages," or ESOL.

The two terms are interchangeable. Pulino added that every school district has a program. Cromwell's current ELL population is around 75 students.

"The program identifies students who in their home their first language is something other than English. When parents register their children [for school] in Cromwell, there are questions in the registration where parents can indicate that," she said.

"I receive that paperwork and would have a short interview with the child, ask questions, do a language screen to get a feel for where they are with the language. I may observe them in the classroom and determine if they need extra support," she added.

"We will give them support in English outside the classroom. There are times they'll come to us in our room and we'll work on things like vocabulary, some grammar, reading comprehension."

Students in the program speak a wide range of languages including Albanian, Polish, Vietnamese, Russian, Spanish and Serbo-Croatian. The number of students in the program has steadily been increasing.

"I think that is a reflection of the population as a whole in the country. ELL is the largest-growing student population of all populations. This community as a whole is very accepting of diversity," Pulino, who is a Cromwell resident, said.

"You don't you think of Cromwell as a place where you would have over 70 [ELL] students in the public schools with over 20 languages. You think of Hartford, you think of Bridgeport. Cromwell, for being such a small community, does have a lot of diversity."

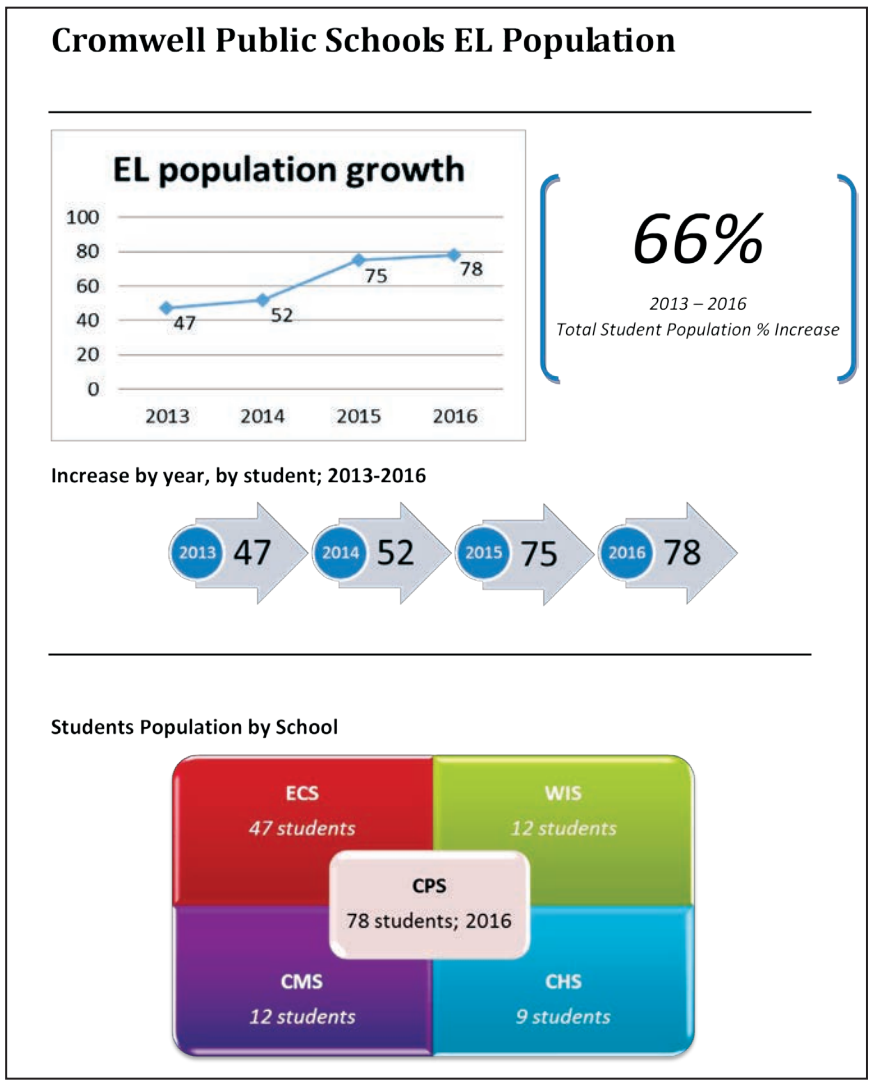
Desiré Lucia D'Ambrogio, whose nickname is Desi, is a junior at Cromwell High School. She and her family moved to town from Sicily in 2014.

"When I moved to the United States, I was in eighth grade. I did not know any English, only 'hi.' I was so scared and shy that for a long period of time I did not talk to anyone. For the first three weeks, I did not understand English, especially when I was in class," Desi said.

"The teachers were talking too fast and for me to get even one word from them was difficult. The ELL program helped me develop my vocabulary and understand how the school projects/essays worked. I was

Top photo: Rosalia Pulino, ESOL coordinator for Cromwell public schools, with Akshitha Bathula. The family of the first-grader hails from India.

Bottom photo: Cristian Guerrero, a kindergarten student from Mexico, raises his hand to ask a question of Karen Nolan, an ESOL tutor.



in middle school for less than three months, so sadly I did not learn a lot."

Determined to learn English, she spent time during the summer studying the language. Still, the transition to CHS was a challenge.

"When I was in high school, my freshman year was not so great. I did not have Mrs. Pulino yet and everything was so new: friends, teachers, language and even the school system. Even though Mrs. Pulino was not an ESOL teacher, she tried in any way possible to help me. Finally, sophomore year, she became my teacher," Desi said.

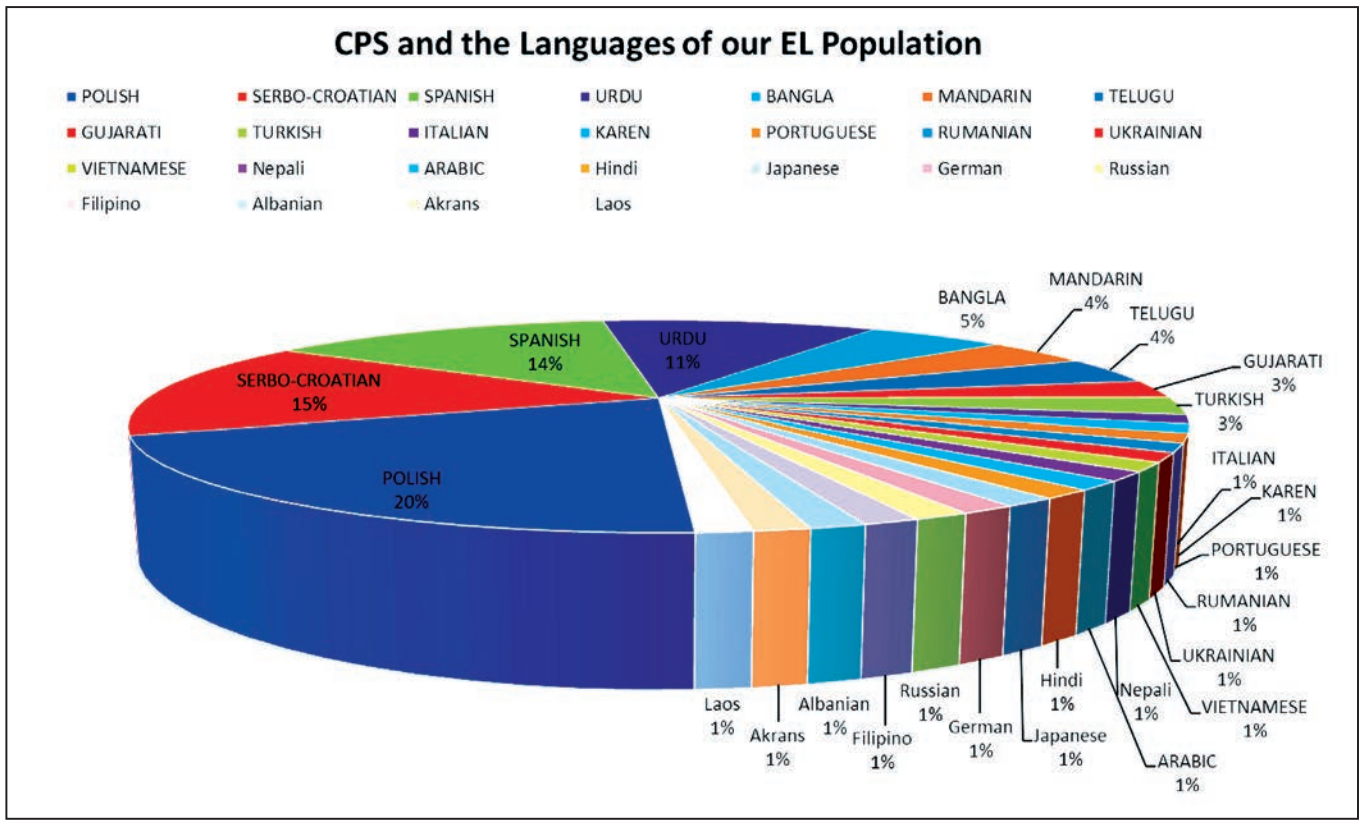
"Sophomore year was very intense and inspiring. She taught me that you cannot start running if you don't know how to walk. Initially, I wanted to be like the other students, but my level of speaking and understanding made me a little special and different from the others. I needed more time and help understanding and reading books.

"Mrs. Pulino and I passed sophomore year reading together. That helped me a lot. She was reading out loud to me and that made me a better listener other than understanding vocabularies. I kind of miss that," Desi added.

"I still need some help with my grammar, but I can definitely say she made me a better writer. I like to write and I'm grateful that she is there to help me.

"Now, like I said, I'm a junior, and I'm definitely doing a lot better in school. I'm able to do almost anything on my own. My favorite classes are English – strange, isn't it? – science and math."

Pulino said that just because a student is struggling with the language doesn't mean he or she isn't smart.



"I think the biggest misconception about the population is that because they either struggle to speak English, or they speak with an accent, or they're on their way with language acquisition, that they're not intelligent, that they can't bring anything to the table. Our students struggle with two things, especially our middle school and high school students," she said.

"Not only do they have to interpret the language, they have to interpret the language and access the content. In science classes and history classes, they not only have to figure out what the words mean but figure out the context, in biology, in American history.

"Just because they don't have the language doesn't mean they don't understand context. That's just not true," she added.

Pulino is proud of the relationship that her staff has built with the classroom teachers.

"Twenty, 30, 40 years ago, kids were in a room the size of a closet. They were out of the mainstream school. Now we have a strong relationship with the classroom teachers. We discuss their strengths. What do they need? ESOL students are like any other kids in the classroom," she said.

"They're part of the classroom community. I think a lot of Cromwell kids learn just as much from them. It's kind of like bringing the world to Cromwell."

Pulino has started an annual open house for ELL families at the elementary school level.

"That was one of my goals, to have more contact, to have families feel more included in their child's education," she said.

"One night we invited all the kindergarten through second grade families to come. We just talked about our program, what their kids were going to learn. We made them feel valued and part of the community. I'm very proud we started that. We already have it on the calendar for next year," she added.

The ELL program isn't meant to supplant a child's own background.

"We celebrate every child's cultural heritage and language. We celebrate it, we encourage it and we want them to be proud of it," Pulino said.

"We want them to go home and speak their languages and keep up those traditions. We celebrate and value every culture." CL

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"We've got all these great things we want to do but we need more people who have the time to do them."

– Marjorie Lemmon

Promoting creativity and culture

Cromwell Arts Alliance looks to support all of the arts

by Mark Jahne
Editor

There are many ingredients that make a town a delightful place in which to live. One of them is an opportunity for residents to participate in or otherwise enjoy the fine and performing arts.

That's just what the Cromwell Arts Alliance is aiming to do. Only three years old, its motto is "bringing out the inner artist in every resident."

From dance and theater to painting, writing, music and multimedia, the CAA aims to inspire and support arts programming and cultural enrichment that engages residents of all ages. This, in turn, can also support economic growth.

The CAA supports, develops, promotes and facilitates opportunities for residents to participate in and develop an appreciation of literary, visual, technical and performing arts.

It all started in 2014 with a joint interest by community members including Mayor Enzo Faienza and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paula Talty. Other participants included business owners, teachers, students, library staff and government personnel.

The CAA filed for 501c3 nonprofit designation this past year to make it easier for people to make donations to support its work. It is looking for members and volunteers to assist in such areas as communications, promotion and events.

Artists or those engaged in an arts-related business in town are encouraged to contact the association to see what it can do to assist them. The CAA has a list of seven goals:

• Cultural enrichment through a diverse selection of artistic programming.

• Collaboration and/or mentoring programs between residents of all ages.

• Opportunities to develop artistic skills and techniques.

• Outreach to local artists.

• Venues and events where artists can present their creative work.

• Establish collaboration between the community, businesses, schools and regional arts organizations.

The Cromwell Arts Alliance is led by Rosemary Matus, left, and Marjorie Lemmon.

• Provide scholarships for high school students and/or local artists.

Marjorie Lemmon and Rosemary Matus serve as president and vice president, respectively, of the alliance. Lemmon works in risk management at Yale University and Matus is a retired manager who worked for Aetna.

They talk with enthusiasm about their work and their hopes for the CAA.

"It was really grassroots, just an informal group of people," Lemmon said about how the association was formed. "There are a couple events we have in the pipeline."

They are working closely with Company 'N Tempo, a local business that offers instruction in dance, music and live theater. It is actively supporting the CAA and has already raised funds for the nonprofit.

"One of the members of our group was very interested in forming a community theater," Matus said.

So they're helping out with that endeavor. The CAA is also involved with Covenant Village on a paper quilt project; the quilts are made out of artistically crafted squares of paper. They may have an art crawl to look at these quilts in the various locations where they are displayed come autumn.

"Next year we're going to offer scholarships to anyone in the community who is interested in taking classes in the arts," Lemmon said.

"Any form of arts," Matus added. "Our goal is to make Cromwell as artsy as we can. We really need memberships."

The association is also looking to support school productions and events. Membership is free.

They sponsored face painting at Edna C. Stevens School as part of its Fun Night festivities. The CAA also has a booth at the local farmers' market whenever possible. They were a participant in the Trick or Trunk portion of this past year's Halloween on Main event sponsored by the Cromwell Merchants Association.

"The first year we were meeting we got permission to work with the graphic design teacher at the high school," Lemmon said.

That led to a project in which students were given the opportunity to create a logo for the CAA. One student's work was selected as the winner and now graces the association's website and Facebook page.

"We've got all these great things we want to do but we need more people who have the time to do them," Lemmon said.

"We have not looked for grants yet. It's on our to-do list. We're small, but mighty. We're still pretty new."

She added that the CAA receives a $500 annual stipend from town government. Both women encourage local artists to seek them out. **CL**

The CAA meets on the first Monday of every other month at 7 p.m. in the media room at the high school. Its next scheduled meeting is June 5. For more information visit cromwellartsalliance.org or visit its Facebook page.

Cromwell government agencies, schools, businesses, clubs, churches and all other civic organizations are invited to send us their upcoming events for inclusion in events spotlight and/or the community calendar. We also welcome people notes and news briefs for news roundup. You can send them to us at mjahne@turleyct.com or Cromwell LIFE, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.

People notes

Samuel Shagan earned high honors and Serra Sevimli earned honors at the University High School of Science and Engineering**.**

Business notes

Dr. Erica (Knee) Pitera, who grew up in Cromwell, recently purchased an existing pediatric dental practice in Middletown formerly run by Dr. Patricia Carta. The new practice is called **Sweet Tooth Pediatric Dentistry**. Dr. Pitera is an avid baker and started a baking blog in her first year of dental school called Erica's Sweet Tooth. She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine and performed her pediatric dental residency at Columbia University – New York Presbyterian Hospital. **CL**

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LIFE *in the classroom*

AP level courses help prepare students for the future

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Students at Cromwell High School are offered the standard classes in math and history, but those who wish to further challenge themselves have greater opportunities. The school offers a wide variety of Advanced Placement courses in subjects ranging from biology and chemistry to art and music theory.

"For a relatively small school, we offer a pretty wide range of AP courses," school counselor Deacon Chapin said.

Advanced Placement is a program run by the College Board, the same organization that runs the SAT. Schools across the country have the opportunity to offer a diverse array of courses that may help bridge the gap between high school and college levels of learning.

"It's regarded by colleges as the most rigorous coursework that a student can take while in high school," Chapin said.

Students at Cromwell High School are eligible to take AP classes starting with their sophomore year, The only one offered that first year is biology. During their junior and senior years students are free to take more classes in whichever fields they choose.

"We encourage students to challenge themselves to take an AP course," Chapin said. "There are no restrictions to how many you can take or who can take them."

Teachers will often recommend students take certain classes, but Chapin said that anyone who has a strong desire to take an AP class will not be turned away. Those who have experienced it said students need to be well prepared.

"It is a lot of work, so it just depends on the person," junior Hannah Perry said. "If you're not an organized person or you know you won't do the work, it's not going to go well."

The 17-year-old took her first AP class during her sophomore year and then registered to take three more as a junior and another three as a senior.

"It prepares you for the college-level work load and helps me to be better in stressful situations," she said. "The work load really doesn't stress me out as much as the tests at the end, though."

Each course ends with a cumulative exam that is given to any student taking that class across the country.

"It's the same coursework, whether you're in Cromwell or in L.A. or anywhere," Chapin said. "It really gives our students access to the same level of rigor you could take at the most elite prep schools in the country."

Hannah, there are many reasons why students would want to challenge themselves with an AP course, the largest of which is the possibility of saving money on college tuition.

"It varies by college, but at most schools they can earn college credit for passing scores," Chapin said. "We pay for the exam and a three-credit class in college can literally be thousands of dollars."

"These are the classes that will really prepare you for college. That's why I'm doing it."

– Hannah Perry

While Cromwell High School offers a wide range of AP courses on site, he said the school is also part of a larger program called Virtual High School.

"It's an online learning website that has basically every AP course," Chapin said. "Students can take the class online then take the test at the end of the year."

According to both Chapin and

For many of the students taking these courses the potential to earn college credit was a great incentive.

"Especially with how expensive college classes are, I wanted to get it done," 16-year-old student Lindsey Scalabrino said.

The potential to earn college credit is one of the largest perks of taking an AP course, according to Chapin.

"It could mean they graduate early or they can start taking higher-level courses that they're interested in earlier," he said.

The AP courses are also of interest to many students who want to further pursue an academic interest.

"I took it for fun, actually," junior Victoria Gorski said.

Having the online option is especially useful for those who have a specific interest that may not be offered at Cromwell High.

"If we don't have it, or if a class doesn't fit in their schedule, they can do it online," Chapin said. "We want to make sure our students have the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities while they're in high school."

Hannah said being able to take such rigorous courses has helped her create a path to the future. She hopes to go to college in Boston and double major in biochemistry and communications.

"These are the classes that will really prepare you for college," she said. "That's why I'm doing it." CL

Try something new

Adventuresome cures for a summertime slump

by Nancy Thompson
LIFE Staff

Zipping above the surface of the water is one of many adventures at Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park in Portland

The lazy, hazy days of summer. They're fun, except that all that laziness could easily slide into boring. No worries, though. We have lots of great ideas to inject some adventure into one's life.

In the trees

Storrs Adventure Park

First, there are ropes courses with a twist.

Visitors navigate through platforms in the trees – connected by bridges made of cable, wood, rope and zip lines – that form aerial trails. They're color-coded by difficulty, ranging from beginner to advanced.

Climbers receive a safety orientation and wear climbing harnesses at all times. Guides are on hard throughout the courses.

Say "Storrs" and most people will think of the University of Connecticut. But it is also home to the Storrs Adventure Park, a forest climbing park where visitors can experience adventure in the trees.

In all, the park has 15 zip lines, four difficulty levels and more than 100 bridges.

Tickets are available for two- and three-hour admissions, for groups of 10 or more, and for two-hour birthday parties. Prices vary by age and activity and range from $22 for two hours for a college student with ID to $47 for a three-hour climb for visitors age 12 and older.

The park is open daily through September 4, Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Storrs Adventure Park is located at 2007 Storrs Road, Storrs. More information at Storrsadventurepark.com, 860-946-0606 or info@storrsadventurepark.com

Nomads Outdoor Adventure

Nomads Outdoor Adventure offers another treetop experience.

The South Windsor park, which claims to be the newest and most exciting such attraction, has six courses and more than 70 aerial challenges for visitors of varying abilities.

Tickets are available for three-hour sessions and range from $28 to $38 depending on age.

A night climb/twilight special is available Sunday through Thursday during the park's last two hours at a discounted rate.

During the summer, the park is open daily from 10 a.m. until dark.

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Riding an oversized tube down three whitewater rapids is only part of the fun at Farmington River Tubing in New Hartford

located at 240 Governors Highway, South Windsor. More information at nomadsadventurequest.com, 860-290-1117 or info@nomadsadventurequest.com.

In the air

Fearless Flyers Academy

Learn to fly through the air, with or without the greatest of ease, at the Fearless Flyers Academy in Mystic. The school also offers classes in trampoline gymnastics, aerial fitness and a variety of aerial fabric activities.

Two-hour trapeze lessons, the academy's most popular, teach students how to perform many of the tricks they've seen at a circus and is available to everyone, from novices to accomplished gymnasts.

The classes are open to everyone from children age 6 and older. No prior experience is necessary, but there is a 180-pound limit.

Students in trampoline gymnastics classes learn proper techniques and skills, using safety-harness systems, crash mats and other safety equipment seldom found in traditional trampoline parks.

Again, no experience is necessary, and the classes are open to anyone six and older.

Aerial fitness classes focus on strength, conditioning and flexibility in the areas that aerialists use most, especially shoulders, back and core muscles. Other classes include aerial fabrics, aerial static trapeze and aerial hoops. There's also a class that teaches students how to become a catcher, the person who snags the trapeze flyer in the air.

Fearless Flyers Academy is located at 800 Flanders Road, Mystic. More information at info@fearlesstrapeze.

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Flight Trampoline Park

Flight Trampoline Park in New Britain has more than 13,000 square feet with 31 trampolines, including a dedicated area gives children 6 and younger. It offers open jump sessions, special activities include Club Flight with lasers, and dodgeball.

Mondays from 4 to 9 p.m. are designated as family nights, and Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. are set aside for visitors with special needs. Admission fees vary by activity and age, with discounts on family nights and special needs nights.

Flight Trampoline Park is located at 140 Production Court, New Britain. More information at flighttrampolinepark.com/Hartford, 860-505-8218 or hartford.info@flighttrampolinepark.com.

Soarin' Indoors

This Manchester attraction has two aerial ropes courses, one that is 2.5 feet off the ground and another 12 feet up. Both have similar challenges, such as rope bridges, cargo nets, swings and zip lines. Young guests, who must be tall enough to reach 60 inches while standing flat on the floor, will negotiate a series of increasingly difficult challenges.

Harnesses and cables are used for safety, and trained guides walk around the course to offer help when needed.

Soarin' Indoors has a two-story playscape in the course room that is available for anyone climbing on the adventure course and also as a separate purchase for younger guests who aren't yet ready for the courses. The playscape is divided into a toddler area for children age 1 to 4 and a regular play area for older children.

The facility is open for individuals, groups, corporate events and private parties.

Admission costs $13.95 for children 12 and younger and $18.95 for visitors 13 and older.

Soarin' Indoors is open Monday, and Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

Soarin' Indoors is located at 422 North Main Street, Manchester.

More information at soarindoors, 860-645-1595.

In and on the water

Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park

Ever thought about jumping off a cliff? You can do it – safely – at this adventure center in one of the biggest brownstone quarries in the world.

The park, near the Connecticut River in Portland, also offers 14 zip lines and an extreme rope swing as well as swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, wall-climbing, wakeboarding and, for certified divers, scuba diving.

The cliff heights vary, so beginners can immerse themselves gradually. The "ultimate extreme rope swing" can launch adventuresome visitors more than 20 feet out into the water. The more challenging wall climbs go up more than 70 feet, but there also are a few relatively easy climbs for the less skilled or less brave.

The park offers three wakeboard runs, two for beginners and one dedicated to more advanced riders. Kayaks, paddle boards, and other human-powered vehicles and toys are available to rent. The park has also become a popular destination for area dive centers to bring students, and for qualified divers to train and use underwater platforms.

Admission fees depend on activities, with $26 for a general swimming pass, $36 for an adventure sports pass, and $46 for a wakeboard adventure sports pass.

Brownstone Exploration &

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Summer Living

Discovery Park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Brownstone Exploration & Discovery Park is located at 161 Brownstone Avenue, Portland. More information at Brownstonepark.com, 866-860-0208.

Tubing on the Farmington River

The idea of floating on an oversized tube doesn't sound like an adventure, but Farmington River Tubing's 2.5-mile ride through three sets of whitewater rapids is enough to get riders' hearts thumping.

The $20 fee, which must be paid in cash, includes the rental of a specially designed tube, a life jacket and a shuttle bus ride from the take-out point back to the starting point. Riders can tube again the same day for an additional $10. Changing houses and restrooms are available.

It's a good idea to check ahead to get information about hours and river conditions.

Hours vary depending on weather and other factors. Tubing is tentatively available through the middle of June weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., depending on weather. The attraction is open from the middle of June through late August daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and late August through Labor Day weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekdays, dependent on weather and staffing, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. After Labor Day through the middle of September, riders must call for hours and river conditions.

Farmington River Tubing is located at 92 Main Street, New Hartford. More information at Farmington rivertubing.com, 860-693-6465.

In the extreme

Empower Leadership & Adventure Center

Empower Leadership & Adventure Center uses terms such as "special agent," heart-pumping, extreme, exhilarating and adrenaline-inducing to describe the activities at its Middletown facility.

The zip line canopy adventure includes a fully guided half-mile journey 40 to 75 feet up in the tree tops, five zip lines ranging from 200 to 650 feet long, two adventure sky bridges and two high ropes climbing challenges.

Participants in the map-and-compass scavenger hunt will piece together clues, find hidden challenges and and overcome obstacles.

Commando rappelling, a special operations adventure and the "Survivor 101 adventure" add an extra element to participants' experiences. Other activities include partner-assisted tree climbing, a four-hour tree-top zip line adventure, an aerial discovery adventure combining zip lines and tree-climbing, a deluxe adventure that combines three challenges into one, parties, and group outings for adults and youths.

The office is open daily during the summer from 8:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. The earliest tour usually leaves between 9 and 9:30 a.m., and the latest tour leaves around 5 or 6 p.m. In the fall, the schedule switches to Tuesday through Sunday.

Empower Leadership & Adventure Center is located at 2011 South Main Street, Middletown. More information at Leadershipsports.com, 860-638-4754 or Office@leadership-sports.com. **CL**

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Skating to success

Cromwell teenager is member of national champion Shoreline Sharks

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Father and daughter celebrate after the championship game in Troy, Mich.

It may not be the Stanley Cup, but it's just as important a trophy to the girls of the Shoreline Sharks U14 ice hockey team. The Connecticut youths earned their way to the national tournament in Troy, Mich., and came back with the hardware signifying they are the national champions.

Players come from several towns in central and southern Connecticut. The lone Cromwell resident is Daniella "Dani" Buccheri, a 14-year-old left wing who attends Cromwell Middle School. Her father Joe is the assistant coach.

Dani said she first took an interest in hockey when she was quite young. Her older brother Joey liked to play and she decided to follow his lead.

"I was little," she said.

"She learned to skate when she was 3," her father added.

The young girl was already learning fundamental hockey skills at the age of 4. Buccheri would make a rink in the back yard of their Robbie Road home during the winter for the children to enjoy.

The one major difference between girls ice hockey and boys ice hockey is that the female game does not allow for body checking, But there are still plenty of collisions and other forms of contact.

"It's a pretty physical game," Buccheri said. "It's a rough game. You would be surprised at the level of play. They're incredible. They're great athletes."

The girls get bigger and stronger as they grow older. Dani said one of things she wants to work on is her strength. She tried playing goalie once or twice but decided left wing was the better choice.

Buccheri played pond hockey in his younger days and still enjoys the sport as an adult in what are whimsically called "beer leagues." He said the Shoreline Sharks team was formed to give girls interested in hockey an opportunity to play.

The team joined the Connecticut Hockey Conference this year, an eight-team conference that is part of USA Hockey. It competes on what is called the tier 2 level. Home games are played in East Haven and Hamden, so Buccheri does plenty of driving.

Dani joked that having her father as an assistant coach means she is always on time for practice.

"I'm there to observe and offer suggestions," he said.

"It's a fast-moving game. It's fun with your friends on the ice," she said.

The season runs for 10 months and players use the two summer months to engage in skill improvement sessions with Head Coach Ed Rodham. Games consist of three periods of 16 minutes each and penalties are assessed the same as in other forms of hockey.

Dani gave her father credit for providing all of the players with support from the bench. She also enjoys spending quality time with him. He feels the same and said the team is quite family oriented.

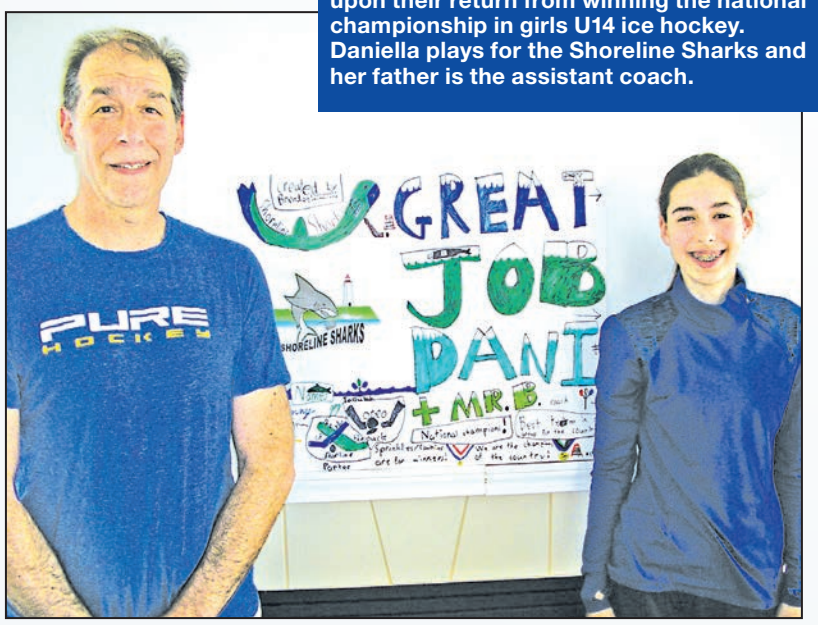
"The friendship these girls display is awesome," her mother Elizabeth said.

The league has opportunities for her to continue playing as she ages and her hope is to play high school and collegiate hockey. She already has Connecticut, New England and national medals earned for her team's success.

The Shoreline Sharks played 64 games this season and were undefeated in the state, regional and national tournaments. They finished the season on a 20-game winning streak. The team only surrendered 15 opposing goals in 16 tournament games and posted 19 shutouts this season.

They played teams from Alaska, Michigan, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Wisconsin on their way to the championship. **CL**

A neighborhood child created this poster congratulating Daniella and Joe Buccheri upon their return from winning the national championship in girls U14 ice hockey. Daniella plays for the Shoreline Sharks and her father is the assistant coach.



Events spotlight

Jazz Cabaret
June 3, 6:15 p.m.
Cromwell High School
860-214-7924 or chsperformingarts@yahoo.com
This event, sponsored by the CHS Music Boosters, features not only live music but a silent auction, all intended to raise funds for band, choir and drama at CHS. Proceeds may also be used to update the auditorium's sound and lighting systems. Featured performers will be Studio Big Band I, Jazz II, "Top Secret" Jazz Choir and vocal jazz soloists. Tickets are $10 per person.

Cromwell government agencies, schools, businesses, clubs, churches and all other civic organizations are invited to send us their upcoming events for inclusion in events spotlight and/or the community calendar. We also welcome people notes and news briefs for news roundup. You can send them to us at mjahne@turleyct.com or Cromwell LIFE, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.

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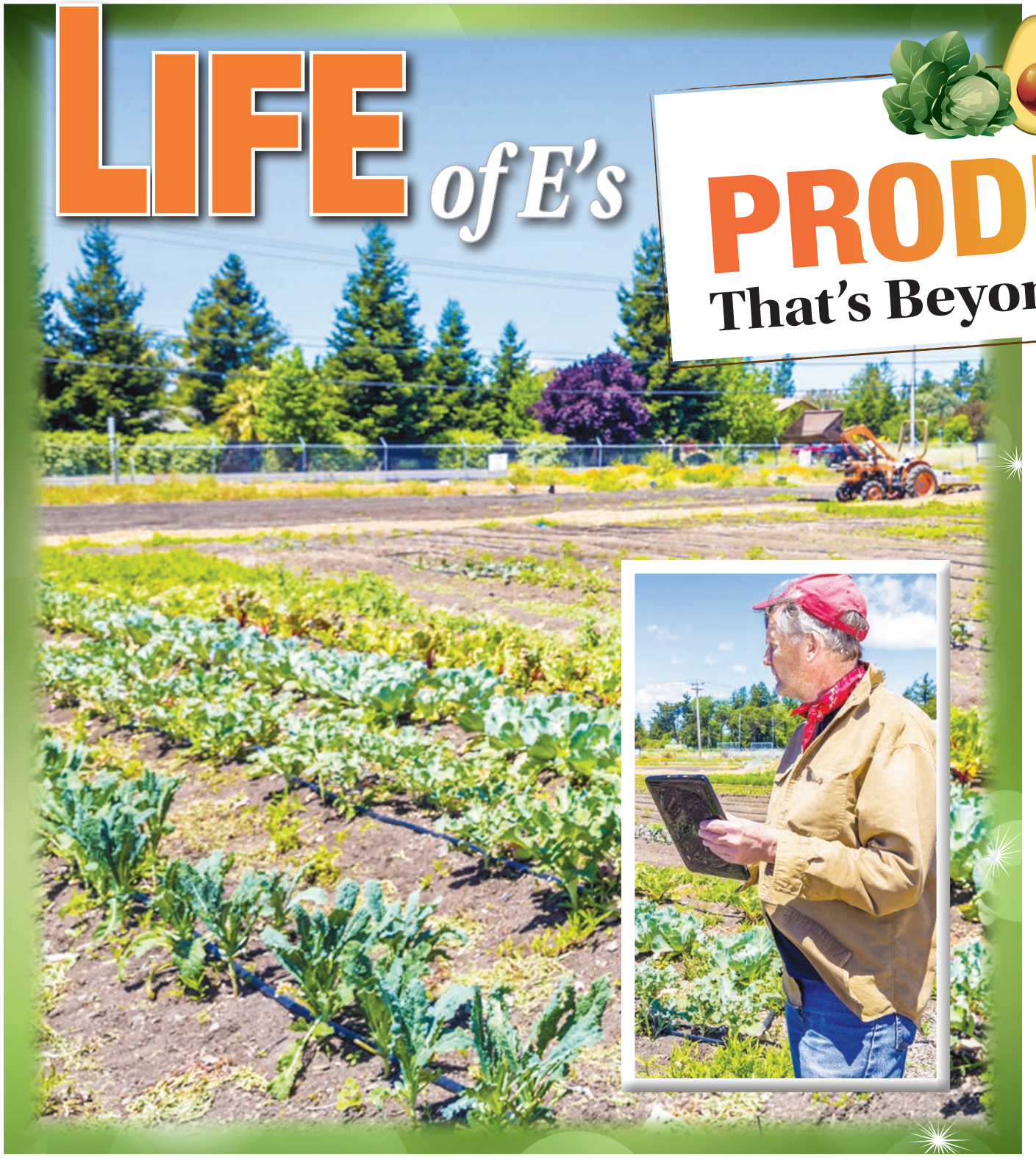
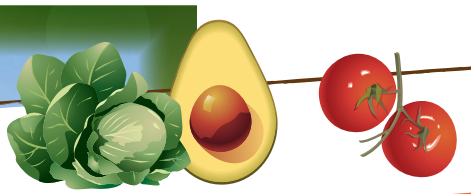


LIFE *of E's*



PRODUCE
That's Beyond Fresh

by Elaine M. Decker

One of the wonderful things about living in Cromwell is that fresh local produce is available throughout much of the year. From the end of May through early November, the choices are sublime. I like to support local businesses and scouting the markets in the area can be entertaining.

Some of the items I've uncovered have been new to me, not to mention strange. They're like that Cheez-It commercial where the quality control guy is assessing the maturity of the cheese wheel. The cheese interrupts; it has attitude. So does some of our local produce. It's beyond fresh. It's sassy! It stops you in your tracks, insisting: "Pick me!"

Last summer I discovered the Cromwell Farmers Market, alongside the Connecticut River at 1 River Road. It operates Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m. from June through September. You'll find around 30 vendors behind little stands showcasing a variety of goods, such as locally grown tomatoes and various types of lettuce, my

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produce of choice. This market also offers fresh baked breads, cheeses, honey, jams and herbs. CromwellFarmersMarket.org

On one trip, what caught my eye was something I'd never seen before. It was green and squiggly with a small bulblike growth at one end. The green part was going wild, trying to escape. Perhaps that inspired its name: garlic scapes. It looked like a bunch of scallions having a bad hair day. I identify with hair that's out of control, so of course, I had to buy some.

I confess that I'm not much of a cook, although I can toss a mean green salad, but I discovered that garlic scapes require some finesse. My to-do list for this summer includes finding some easy recipes for this ridiculous vegetable. While I'm at it, I'll look for ways to use the equally odd-looking but aptly-named fiddleheads, which are actually ferns.

Speaking of salads, I can never decide which greens to purchase. The market usually has red curly lettuce and green curly, adorable little bibb and stodgy romaine. If I arbitrarily pick one of the ample curlies, the bibb calls out: "No! Take me!" and I oblige. Then the romaine grumbles: "What's wrong with me? You like to layer my leaves with a slice of turkey and a piece of Swiss to make non-bread rollups at lunchtime." And that, friends, is how I wind up with three heads of lettuce in my canvas tote.

It doesn't get easier when it comes to fresh tomatoes, which can be found in red, yellow, green, and even purple and zebras, not to mention the different shapes and sizes. Does it matter whether I expect to eat them raw or cook them? You've probably guessed that I don't plan ahead on menus. Will I be slicing them, or cutting them into wedges? Or popping them into my mouth as I stand in front of the open refrigerator, wondering what's for dinner. In my world, a big selection is not always a good thing.

Then again, sometimes it is. Phoenix Farm, located midway down the long and winding Nooks Hill Road, grows more than 80 varieties of organic fruits and vegetables and offers an assortment of goods, including free-range eggs and award winning pickles. They have their own apiary, so they sell raw wildflower honey. Dating to 1875, Phoenix is one of the last working farms in Cromwell. They're open Sundays 10 to 3 and Thursdays 4 to 7 from June through October. They take orders through Facebook and by phone during the winter months, making it a terrific find when the other markets are closed for the

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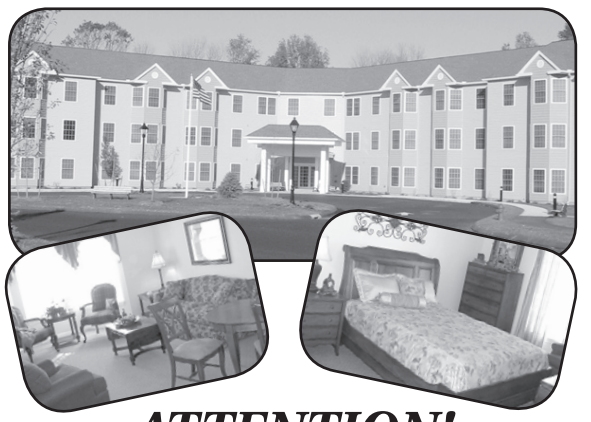

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Phoenix is great for other reasons, too. They offer a certified organic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. CSAs connect local growers to consumers, who pay in advance for shares of the farms' harvests to help farmers plan better and keep costs down. With the participation of the Town of Cromwell, Phoenix's owners conveyed the development rights for their land to the State under the Community Farms Preservation Program (CFPP). Their farm can never be turned into a strip mall or a residential development. That community spirit deserves to be supported.

A while ago I read in the New York Times that vegetables have their own seasons within our normal four. The writer, Melissa Clark, called it "microseasonality." Each vegetable can go through all its mircoseasons within one calendar season. Our local farmers markets are a great place to observe this in progress.

Take tomatoes, for example. According to Clark, they start out "hard and green and mildly acidic" (like the "me" of my youth). She describes tomatoes throughout their growing period, ending with this: the "later-season specimen… has had a chance to grow fatter. The flesh gets flabby, the seeds larger and more distracting."

Seriously. Is she describing a tomato? Or is she talking about my neck wattle, my wing flaps and my age spots? This weighs on me every time I look at tomatoes at a farm stand. I no longer reject the ones that are misshapen or have a brown spot or two. I wonder what Clark knows about garlic scapes. **CL**

Elaine M. Decker's books include Retirement Sparks, Retirement Sparks Again, Retirement Sparks Redux and CANCER: A Coping Guide. Her essays appear in the anthologies: 80 Things To Do When You Turn Eighty and 70 Things To Do When You Turn Seventy. All are available on Amazon.com. She's also been featured in ReaderSupportedNews.org. Contact her at: Elaine.Decker@alumni.Brown.edu.

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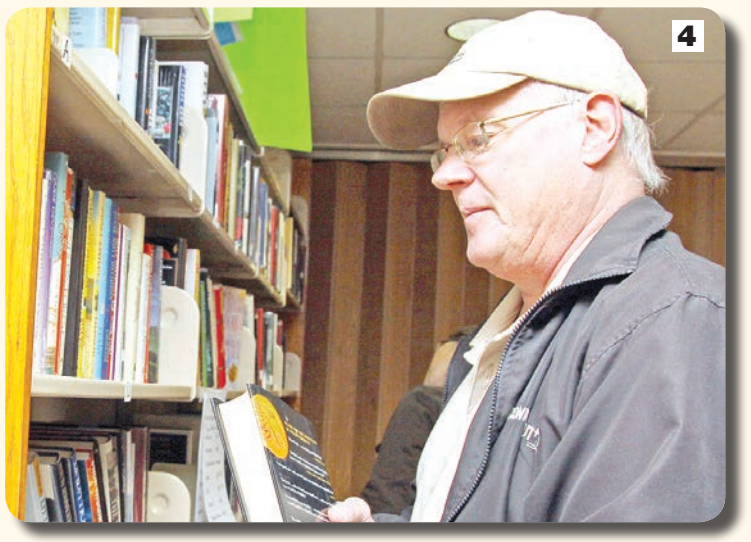
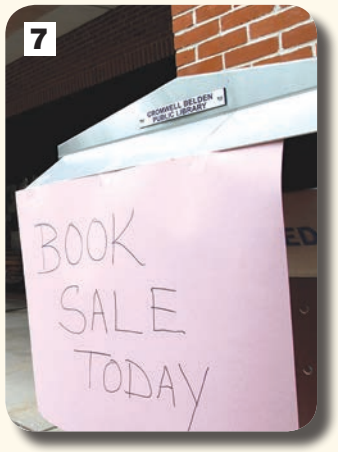
Slice of LIFE

photos by Lisa Brisson

The Cromwell Belden Public Library was busier than usual during the Friends of the Library's two-day Spring Book Sale. The fundraiser featured hundreds of fiction and nonfiction hardcovers and paperbacks, as well as CDs.



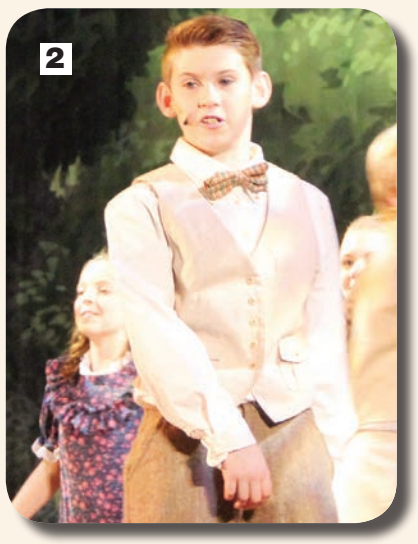


Books for sale

1. Lena and Paul Shirley found some good books and classical CDs at the Spring Book Sale. **2.** The Friends of the Cromwell Belden Public Library were delighted with the donation of book bags from Barnes & Noble. Friends volunteer Shirley Labbe holds the last one for sale. **3.** Paolo Cultrera, 9, was busy looking for all sorts of books on his favorite subjects, historical figures like Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin, and race cars. **4.** Mark DiMarco searches for nonfiction reads. **5.** Marina Peters, 6, and her 10-year-old sister Annika are ready to go home and start reading their new books. **6.** Visitors to the Cromwell Belden Public Library were treated to a vast array of hardcover and paperback books as well as CDs for sale. **7.** The sign says it all – book lovers are directed to the rear of the library to find all kinds of treasures at the semi-annual Friends of the Cromwell Belden Public Library Spring Book Sale. Another sale is planned for September or October. **8.** Lisa Trischett goes back for a second look at the hardcovers before she pays for her selections. **9.** Friends member Jean Tatro shows visitors to the Spring Book Sale where they can purchase hardcovers all year round and support the group and its projects.

Slice of LIFE

photos by Abigail Albair



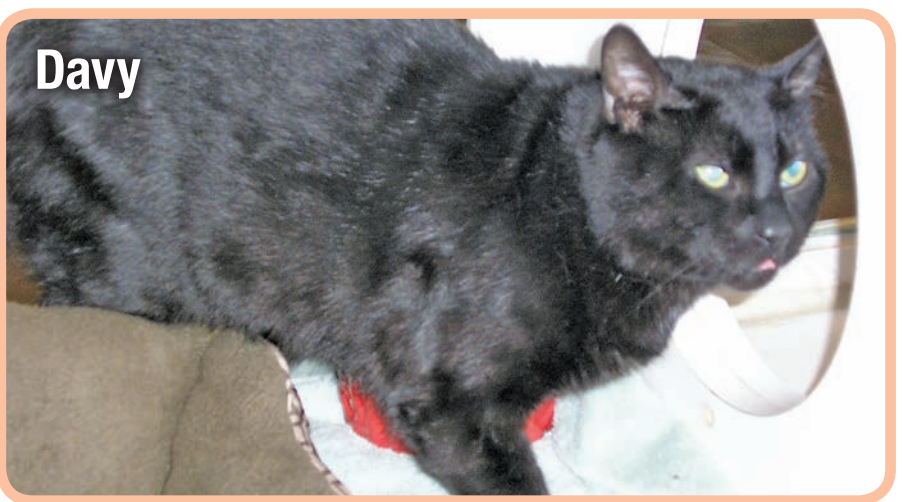
Cromwell Middle School students came together for the school's spring musical production "The Music Man" in early April. The final performance of the show - which tells the story of traveling salesman Harold Hill and the way he changes River City, Iowa - brought tears from the eyes of graduating eighth-grade students and thunderous applause from the audience.

Students stage spring production

1. Sydney Dzurka as Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn leads the Pick-A-Little Ladies in a performance. **2.** Chris Jordan as Marcellus Washburn leads the town children in Shipoopi. **3.** Jenna Bulmer as Mrs. Paroo talks to Thomas Pier as Winthrop. **4.** Brendan LaDuke as Harold Hill (center) is surrounded by townspeople at the conclusion of the convincing "Ya Got Trouble," leading local parents to support his efforts to form a boys' band. **5.** Avery Goyette sings "Goodnight, My Someone" to her hopeful, future love. **6.** The town children dance in "Shipoopi." In front are Zaneeta Shinn, played by Jessica Camilleri (left), and Tommy Djilas, played by Kyle Stefurak (right).

a new leash on LIFE

Meet Bella and Davy



Davy is 4 years old, a jet black male domestic shorthair. He's searching for a quiet home with older children preferred. Other animals might be OK. He's strictly an indoor cat and should not be let outside.

Bella is a friendly white Labrador retriever and is 7 years old. She wants to live in a single-family home or condominium and would fare best with a family that has prior active dog experience. Any children in the house should be 14 or older. She has no prior experience living with other animals. She needs daily exercise because of her high energy level **RHL**

Inquiries about adoption may be made at the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington. Call 860-594-4500. More information, including videos, can be found online at cthumane.org. Click on "Adopt" and "Newington." The Connecticut Humane Society is a private organization and has no time limits for adoption.

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News roundup

Covenant Village employees receive awards

Two employees of Covenant Village of Cromwell, one of 15 entities operated by Covenant Retirement Communities, were honored at its 2017 Inspiration Awards Ceremony in St. Charles, Ill.

James Harris works in maintenance and received the award in the safety category. Patricia Dooley, unit coordinator at its health care center, received the award in the responsiveness category.

Harris, second from left in far photo, is shown with Terri Cunliffe, president and CEO of Covenant Retirement Communities; Pamela Klapproth, executive director at Covenant Village of Cromwell; and Michael Hamel, facilities management director at Covenant Village of Cromwell.

In the near photo Dooley, second from right, is shown with Terri Cunliffe, president and CEO of Covenant Retirement Communities; Maria Christoforo, health care administrator at Covenant Village of Cromwell and Pamela Klapproth, executive director at Covenant Village of Cromwell.

Covenant Village employees receive awards

Knights support seminarians

Cromwell Knights of Columbus DeSoto Council 6 presented three $500 scholarships to seminarians at Holy Apostles College and Seminary. Shown are, from left, K of C member Dick Coughlin, Brother Hien Pham, Brother Vinh Nguyen, Brother Hoa Pham, K of C Financial Secretary Bob Matus and Holy Apostles President the Rev. Douglas Mosey.

Eversource Aids Ädelbrook

The Eversource Foundation recently donated $2,500 to support Ädelbrook's summer programming. Ädelbrook provides a seven-week Extended School Year Program during the summer months that includes functional academics and enrichment activities.

Summer programming is important in providing a continuity of services for people with autism. Shown are, from left, Pat Bandzes of Eversource community relations; Heide Perham, director of marketing and communication for Ädelbrook; and Town Manager Anthony Salvatore.

Eversource Aids Ädelbrook

Bowling for charity

A total of 71 bowlers turned out for the 2nd Annual Knights of Columbus Charity Bowl sponsored by DeSoto Council 6 of Cromwell. They raised $800 which, along with a $200 donation from the council, resulted in a $1,000 donation to the Cromwell Food Bank.

Amy Saada, town human services director, accepts the check from Matt Blanchette, event coordinator. The event was held at Bowl-O-Rama on the Berlin Turnpike in Newington.

Knights support seminarians

Bowling for charity

Play golf, support Ädelbrook

Ädelbrook's Golf for Kids Tournament will be held June 1 at the Robert Trent Jones Course at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield. Now in its 22nd year, this event includes 18 holes of golf, continental breakfast and afternoon buffet, contests for long drive and closest to the pin, free neck and shoulder massages, a silent auction and prize drawing, as well as other special contests.

The proceeds of this year's tournament will help fund the completion of the outdoor classroom areas with a playground that can accommodate children and youth from diverse backgrounds and abilities. The playground will create an environment that focuses on developing children's emotional, social and physical health, as well as sensory skills.

Download the golf brochure at https://adelbrook.org/learn-more/events/golf-for-kids or call 860-635-6010 ext. 327. **CL**

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Historic Talcott Mill, LLC, through its Managing Agent DeMarco Management Corporation, is pleased to announce the new housing opportunity available at Old Talcott Mill. Applications are now being accepted and the property is anticipated to be ready for occupancy in June 2017. Old Talcott Mill is a Workforce Development Housing Community located at 47 Main Street in Vernon, CT within the Talcott Historic District in Vernon, CT. The rehabilitation of Talcott Brothers' Mill offers eighty three (83) residential units. Units will be offered to individuals and families having an annual household income at and not exceeding 60% of the HUD AMI for Tolland County. Income Limit Restrictions Apply. Applications are available at DeMarco Management Corporation in person at 117 Murphy Road in Hartford, CT; by phone (860) 951-9411; by contacting the ATT Relay number 711 or via email at info@talcottmill.com. Applications will not be available at the Property.

The residential space includes a mix of differently sized studio, one bedroom, and two bedroom apartments with rents starting at $886 - $1122 with heat and hot water included in the rents. The property offers spacious unique floor plans, fully-applianced kitchens, on-site laundry facilities, fitness room, central air, accessible units, community room and Historic Mill Exhibition.

This development is financed through the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), receives state grant funds from the Department of Housing (DOH), with State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. Income Restrictions Apply.

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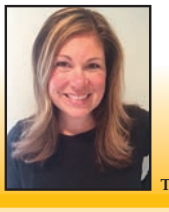

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Editorial

Hooray for the Cromwell Arts Alliance

The arts enrich our lives. It's as simple as that. Communities that welcome and incorporate the arts into the fabric of local life are more enjoyable places in which to live, work and play.

They can help the local economy, too. People who attend a concert or play or dance performance might well stop at a local retailer afterward for food, drink or a little quick shopping. They may stop at a local gasoline station to fill up their tank.

This town has a great deal to offer and now it can also count the Cromwell Arts Alliance among its shining stars. This young organization is still establishing itself and raising badly needed funds but it has taken some excellent first steps.

What is perhaps most exciting about the CAA is the fact that it is open to people of all ages. Little children, young adults, middle aged people or senior citizens can all take advantage of what it has to offer. Those options will only grow in the coming years.

What's equally exciting is that the CAA is not limiting itself to any single kid of art. Fine art, performing art, it doesn't matter. The organization is looking to promote and support whatever it can under the wide umbrella of the arts.

The fact that the public school district and town government took an early and supportive role in this effort is encouraging. That shows wide support and can only help the folks running the CAA to succeed.

Already receiving support are student art, fine art, live theater, music, dance, multimedia, writing and more. Particular interest is being paid to the community theater that is just getting off the ground and closing in on its first show.

The association is looking for ways to provide mentoring for people interested in one or more of the arts. It's looking for ways to promote collaboration between community, businesses, schools and regional arts organizations.

Once there is a financial nest egg, it hopes to create scholarships for high school students or perhaps even other artists of any age who live in town.

What it needs the most right now is membership. For more information see cromwellartsalliance.org or visit its Facebook page. **CL**

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BY MARK DIXON
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]

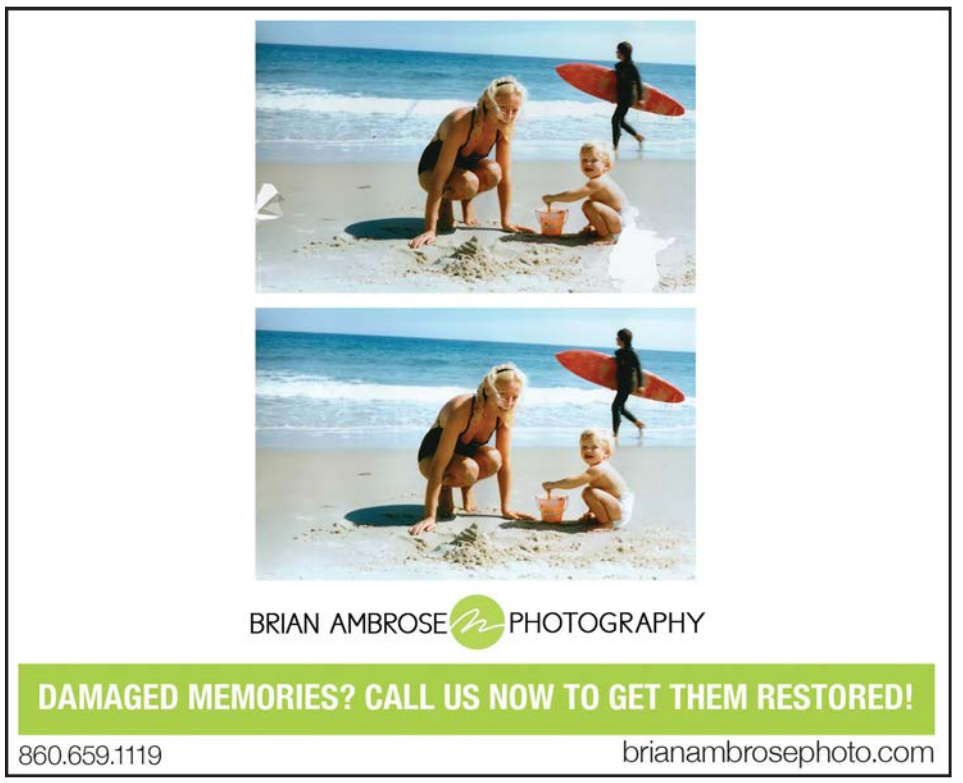
Going into the 2017 Hurricane Season...

The Atlantic Hurricane Season of 2016 featured 15 named storms, 7 reached hurricane status and of those 4 became MAJOR hurricanes. Last year was a bit more active than normal, which was accurately forecast. An "average season" includes 12 Tropical Storms (wind 39mph or greater), 6 Hurricanes (wind 74mph or greater) and 3 Major Hurricanes (111mph or greater).

When it comes to naming, there are 6 lists used in rotation for the Atlantic Basin (including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean)... alternating gender, starting at the top of the alphabet. Two from last year, Matthew and Otto, have been retired by the WMO (World Meteorological Organization, a group of international scientists) due to their deadly or destructive nature as they both wreaked havoc through the Caribbean. They'll be replaced with Martin and Owen, when the list is reused in 2022.

The Atlantic season runs from June 1st through November 30th ... although in April, Arlene formed. This is only the 2nd time in the satellite era for one to do so in that month. Early outlooks are calling for a slightly less active 2017, due to cooler-than-normal Atlantic sea surface temperatures and potential/slow El Nino development.

Regardless of how many storms develop, the bigger issue: if and where they will make landfall – something that is extremely difficult to forecast. CL



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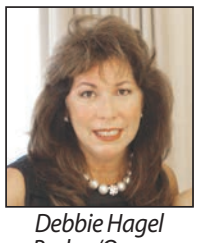

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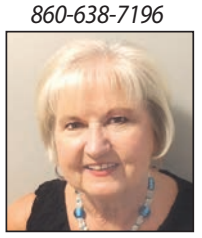

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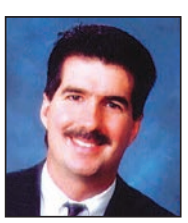

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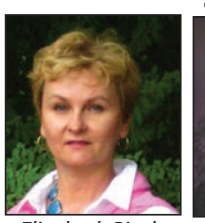

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